



10/08/2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all enjoying the fine weather. This newsletter will give you a detailed breakdown as to what the reopening of Kilrickle N.S. will look like when pupils return to school on August 31st. The school has prepared a Covid Response Plan. The details of the plan are outlined in this newsletter.

There are two broad aims of the plan:

- 1. Ensure the safety and wellbeing of our pupils and staff.**
- 2. Minimize interaction between the classrooms**
- 3. Promote good hygiene and cleanliness within the school.**

Planning and Systems

Parents will be kept up to date with the latest advice from the Government and Department of Education via email. For instances that require more immediate action, parents will receive a text message or a phone call. **Please therefore ensure that the school has your correct email and phone number.**

Signage

Child friendly posters will be located in suitable locations to highlight issues regarding Covid 19.

Visitors

Visitors entering the school grounds will be kept to a minimum. This includes parents. **We kindly ask that parents do not enter the school grounds without the school's consent.** Any visitor that wishes to visit the school will have to make an appointment and fill out the [COVID-19 contact log](#). Communication with parents therefore will ideally be done via email or phone. In the unlikely event that this arrangement cannot be fulfilled other arrangements may be sought.

Drop Off

In order to promote better social distancing we are giving parents a 20 minute window to drop off their child(ren). **From 9.10am – 9.30am parents are asked to drop off their children.** We normally have congestion problems at this time so we kindly ask you to park at the community car park and walk your child to the school gates. **If this is not feasible, we ask that you drop your child off near the school as promptly and as safely as possible whilst still giving regard to other pupils, parents and school staff.** Further detailed information on school parking can be found on the school brochure linked [here](#).

A member of staff will be present on the school grounds each morning to ensure that children socially distance when they arrive at and enter the school. We ask parents to explain to their child(ren) the importance of social distancing as they enter the school grounds.

Parents of pupils in the Junior Room are asked to walk their children to the back of the school where the back door is located beside the large tarmac area. The pupils will enter via this door by themselves under the supervision of a member of staff. All Infant pupils will enter and exit via this door.

Collection

Parents of pupils in the Junior Room will again be asked to collect their children in this large tarmac area outside the backdoor at home time. **For the first week back we ask these parents to collect their children from the Junior Room at 12.15pm.**

On dry days pupils in the Senior Room will be asked to line up close to the flag pole at the front of the school for collection after school. The pupils in the Middle Room will be asked to line up close to the school shed. From here both Mr. Gibbons and Mr. Kelly will allow pupils leave the school safely once the child(ren)'s parents/childminders have been identified. Again, **we ask parents/childminders not to enter the school grounds and to socially distance as they collect their child(ren).**

On wet days pupils will stay in the classroom and Mr. Kelly and Mr. Gibbons will allow pupils to leave once parents/childminders has been identified outside of the school grounds.

Social Distancing in Classrooms

Pupils in the Junior Room (Senior Infants and Junior Infants) and Middle Room (1st/2nd and 3rd) will not be expected to practice social distancing once they are in their respective classrooms. Pupils in the Senior Room will be encouraged to keep 1m apart from each other and the classroom layout will reflect this.

Toilets

The children in the Infant Room have ensuite toilets. The children in both the Middle and Senior Rooms will have access to one toilet each.

Yard Time

Pupils in the **Junior Room will only have access to the large tarmac area** at the back of the school. The children in the **Middle Room will now only have access to front of the school, garden and astro area** and the children in the **Senior Room will only have access to the tennis court**. When it **is feasible to use the green area this will be divided into three green areas for each classroom**. Children are asked not to enter an area that is not belonging to their classroom unless absolutely necessary i.e. First Aid, toilet etc... Pupils from the Junior Room will enter and exit via the back door for yard time, pupils from the Middle and Senior Rooms will enter their respective areas via the main front door of the school. Each classroom bubble will re-enter the school without coming in contact with another classroom bubble.

Return to School Form

We ask that all parents fill out a return to school form on behalf of their child. This is linked [here](#) and needs to be filled in **3 days prior** to school re-opening. A reminder email will be sent to parents closer to this time.

Displaying Symptoms

If your child is displaying any Covid Symptom - 19 they must stay a home. Please click [here](#) to view these symptoms.

Lead Work Representative

Each school has a Lead Work Representative and Assistant Lead Work Representative. **Mrs. Gwyneth Lusted will fulfil the role of Lead Work Representative and Mr. Colm Gibbons will be fulfilling the role of Assistant Lead Work Representative.** These two teachers are responsible for the proper implementation of the Covid Response Plan within the school.

Cleaning and Hygiene

All schools will have to be cleaned each day after school. We are fortunate that this has always been the case and this will continue as normal. **At the end of each day we will be asking pupils from 1st class upwards to wipe down their tables, chairs and baskets.** Cleaning wipes will be provided for this. Teachers will also be responsible for disinfecting their own work place.

There will be 14 sanitiser spots located around the school, mainly at entry and exit points to different rooms within the building. **Children in the Junior Room will not be given independent use of sanitiser and this will be administered by the class teacher, Ms. Hardiman.** Children and staff need to wash their hands or use sanitiser for the following incidences:

- before and after eating and preparing food
- after coughing or sneezing
- after using the toilet
- where hands are dirty
- before and after wearing gloves
- before and after being on public transport
- before leaving home
- when arriving/leaving the school /other sites
- after touching potentially contaminated surfaces
- if in contact with someone displaying any COVID-19 symptoms

There is access to hot water in every classroom and at every toilet. The temperature of which can be regulated.

Soap dispensers will be located at each sink within the school. Beside these locations there will be paper towels dispensers and pedal bins.

Parents may wish to provide their own sanitiser for their child. If this is the case, a small container that could fit in your child(ren)'s pencil case would be preferable. Again, children in the Junior Room are not allowed to use hand sanitiser independently.

School Uniform and School Materials

We are asking that children continue to wear their school uniform to school. We encourage children to change clothes when returning from school each day. It is the parent's choice if they wish to have a number of sets of the school uniform.

Each child will be supplied with a school basket on their first day of school. Here, all of their school books will be kept. School books will need to be brought home each day from the basket for homework.

Children will be given individual art supplies in a pack during the opening weeks of school.

Children's toys will be cleaned once a week by the class teacher. Soft toys will be removed from classrooms. This is in line with Department Guidance.

School Staff

There will be instances where other staff members will be interacting with different classrooms.

For instance Mrs. Lusted will be working with pupils from each classroom as she is the school's Special Education Teacher. There may also be increased staff absences as those members displaying Covid Symptoms may need to isolate for 14 days.

Pupil Absences

Children may have to self-isolate if they display Covid 19 symptoms for 14 days. In these instances work will be provided for children to complete at home as was the case during the previous school year.

Protocol for Suspect Covid Case

If there is an incidence where the school has a likely suspect Covid Case the following protocol will be followed. A member of the school staff will escort the child or staff member to the isolation area. The school's isolation area will be located in the foyer area outside the staff toilet. The following materials will be provided...

- Tissues
- Hand sanitiser
- Disinfectant/wipes
- Gloves/Masks
- Waste Bags
- Bins

A member of the school staff will immediately contact the child's parents and arrange for that child to be collected. A checklist for parents will be emailed to all families to arrange for the affected child to leave school as safely as possible. You can view this checklist [here](#).

A follow up call will be made by the school principal to monitor progress.

The classroom space will be vacated and pupils will be asked to go outside to their designated play area. In the instance when it is raining alternative accommodation will be used.

Specialist cleaning companies will be called to clean the affected areas as soon as practically possible.

Please note that following protocol will only need to be followed in exceptional circumstances.

Face Coverings

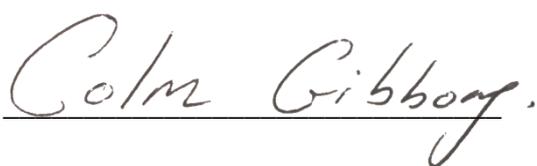
It is not recommended that children attending primary school or preschool/childcare settings wear face-coverings. However it is recommended that **teachers and staff in primary schools wear a face-covering when a physical distance of 2 meters from other staff or children cannot be maintained.** Therefore there may be situations where teachers will have to wear face coverings. This may include a mask or visor.

Concerns

If you have any concerns and queries regarding the re-opening of the school please do not hesitate to contact me via my email mrgibbons@kilricklens.com. When we do return to school you can also contact your child(ren)'s teacher via their email.

I would like to thank the Board of Management and the school staff who have been working over the summer to ensure that we re-open in a manner that is safe, welcoming and conducive to learning. Further information will continue to come including a video that will give parents and pupils a virtual insight as to what our school will look like before we re-open. This will be made available over the weekend before school return.

Le gach dea ghúí



Colm Gibbons

Principal

Kilrickle N.S.